

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0004] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0004] A premix method is a method of uniformly mixing iron powder and metal powder or alloy powder, molding the resulting mixture, and then heating and sintering the mixture to obtain a solid solution from the added elements. This method has difficulties in that the added metal powder or alloy powder mixed into the iron powder separates or segregates due to differences in ~~specific gravity~~ relative density in the steps up to molding, or that the diffusion of added elements during sintering is inadequate and does not progress uniformly, and problems with product quality occur in that there are fluctuations in the strength or dimensions of the sintered compact due to the nonuniformity of the sintered compact.